

NATIONAL

New encyclopaedia on Palestinian folklore

By Mohammad Ayish
Special to the Jordan Times

FOR MANY years, most of the literature about Palestinian folklore had been confined to the writings of foreign tourists and researchers who came to visit the Middle East or do field work in it. But from now on, researchers into Palestinian folklore will not have problems getting into the roots of

that heritage, thanks to a five-part encyclopaedia that has been just completed in Arabic by Nimr Sarhan after 16 years of work.

"My interest in Palestinian folklore started in a casual way. In 1965, I was asked to write a radio script on Palestinian village life for the Voice of Palestine programme, which was broadcast by Jordan Radio from Jerusalem," Mr. Sarhan said. "The programme

aimed at introducing Palestinian life, with all its folklore aspects, which, at the time, was unfortunately confined to folk music," he added.

He also told the Jordan Times that though the programme was never broadcast, he believed that he had accomplished something in terms of gathering information and research on Palestinian folklore.

After 16 years of work on Palestinian folklore, Mr. Sarhan said that his mission has not been completed. "Well, I would say the first stages of my work were those of an amateur, in terms of data gathering and the classification of information. I also was not fully aware of what I was after," he added.

During the period from 1966-1967, Mr. Sarhan conducted a folklore survey in the occupied West Bank in the areas extending from Tulkmarm to Al-Fawwar in Hebron Governorate. After the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Mr. Sarhan has not had the chance to do any more work there, and his activities have been carried out from the East Bank.

"At that moment, I was still unaware of what my research would lead to," he recalled.

During his stay in Amman, Mr. Sarhan has continued to gather more information about Palestinian folklore from Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. In the meantime, he conducted a comprehensive folklore survey in the East Bank in an area extending from Aqaba in the south to Ramtha in the north, and from Azraq in the east to the Jordan Valley in the west.

Mr. Sarhan, who worked for the Ministry of Information in the early 1970's, also managed to publish a quarterly magazine on folklore. But in 1977, the magazine ceased to be published, giving Mr.



Nimr Sarhan

Sarhan the chance for actual work on the unique five-volume Palestinian Folklore Encyclopaedia.

The first volume was published in 1977, the second and the third in 1978, the fourth in 1979 and the last this year.

Meanwhile, in 1980, Mr. Sarhan published two series of books, one on folklore for children and the other on Palestinian folk tales.

"Although the five volumes of the encyclopaedia have been completed and published separately, I think that I am still left with hard work related to the classification of the materials," he said. He was referring to his plan to arrange the subjects of his encyclopaedia according to the alphabetical order; not of the subjects themselves, but of the Arabic three-letter past tense derivative form. "This means that the whole work will have to be reclassified, and so far I have done quite a good bit of work," he said.

According to Mr. Sarhan's encyclopaedia, folklore means the "total cultures of the less-developed social groups" which

are referred to as "common people." That folklore, Mr. Sarhan said, includes verbal arts, material arts and traditional beliefs.

The verbal arts include proverbs, popular sayings, folk wisdom and songs. The material arts include handicrafts -- embroidery or other traditional arts -- that were done by the less-developed social groups.

"The chandelier which was used by the rich people in Palestine would not be considered as part of folklore because of the limited scope of its use," he said. "In contrast, we would consider lamps in the villages as an important part of handicrafts that were productive on a large scale in Palestine," he added.

The traditional beliefs comprise the people's views of the universe and life, as well as the myths and religious rituals involved.

Mr. Sarhan's Palestinian Folklore Encyclopaedia has drawn more interest in this part of the Palestinian culture. This year, the First of July was declared Palestinian Folklore Day to acquaint others with Palestinian culture. For Mr. Sarhan, the initiation of that day was important because it would give foreigners the chance to know the Palestinian folklore by visiting exhibitions that have been held in Europe and the United States. These exhibitions, Mr. Sarhan said, would also refute Zionist claims abroad that most of the Palestinian folklore has its Judaic origins.

The reclassification and review of the five-volume Palestinian Folklore Encyclopaedia will be done by a committee of 27 people from Palestine and other parts of the Arab World. Mr. Sarhan could not specify how much time this work would take, but he recommended that once the final edition of the encyclopaedia is completed, it should be republished and reviewed every five years.



Embroidery and other traditional arts constitute only one part of a people's folklore.



The cover of Volume 5 of the Palestinian Folklore Encyclopaedia

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IN FOCUS

Graffiti Lives, O.K.

By Dr. Majdi Sabri

Football fans in Jordan often carry their enthusiasm to areas other than the playgrounds. Their strong feelings are sometimes expressed by chanting slogans or sounding the horns of their cars in praise of the brilliant performance of their favourite team.

More recently, however, some football fans seem to have found in wall inscriptions an appropriate means to state their opinions more quietly. Writings on the walls are in most cases straightforward but hardly entertaining.

Writing on the walls, or graffiti-writing, as it is often referred to, is becoming inter-

national and exists in many countries around the world. In some countries the spirit of graffiti-writing reached epidemic stage.

In Britain for example, wall inscriptions could be found almost everywhere. Some people appear to be fond of writing all sorts of comments in subways, underground carriages, park benches not to mention public conveniences.

Intellectual graffiti is particularly prevalent in famous academic institutions. One can hardly resist reading what may end up to be critical but clearly

humorous article discussing a fairly serious matter in such a place as the men's toilet at the London School of Economics.

Graffiti, by the nature of their calling, are anonymous. Some people may think of them as frustrated human beings who resort to this brand of vandalism. Some others may consider them as talented persons with a good sense of humour.

Most people however think of good graffiti as a type of humour that you won't find in quite the same form anywhere else except on walls in odd places.

It is claimed that the longest inscription in history was written

by Chairman Mao himself. As a 22-year-old student he wrote a total of 4000 characters, in an attack on his headteacher.

The funniest graffiti could be found in Nigel Rees' best sellers, the first of which was entitled Graffiti Lives, O.K. Mr. Rees, (of whom it has been said that he is doing to graffiti what Bolognese sauce has already done to spaghetti), has since then published two other books in which he presents hundreds of funny scribbles and daubings collected from various parts of the world.

Some of the witty items in his latest book entitled Graffiti 3 include:

"Stamp out vandalism or I'll break your windows."

"Keep death off the roads, drive on the pavement."

"City planners do it with their eyes shut."

"Beat inflation, eat the rich."

"OK sauce rules, HP."

"I bet I could stop gambling."

It is evident that Jordan cannot afford to have widespread graffiti-writing. This is not only because what is currently written is hardly amusing, but also because of the high cost of cleaning dirty walls. It is reported that graffiti in New York reached such an epidemic stage that it costs the city \$6.5 million a year to remove.

With the staring example of unrest in Poland, there is a frantic search for means to contain the poor grain crops problem within the Soviet bloc.

Harvest failures threaten Communists

By Kenneth Jantz
Associated Press

VIENNA — The Soviet Union's confession of crop problems this week reflects widespread farm failures in Eastern Europe.

Government targets for wheat, corn or other grains failed to be reached in nearly every Soviet bloc nation this year, leading to open display of frank criticism of agricultural practices.

Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev this week acknowledged another poor harvest, and criticised Soviet economic planners for continued "hitches" and failed economic reforms.

The result of the poor harvests has been more emphasis on small private farms in some Soviet bloc nations.

Czechoslovakia, departing from past practice, has told private farmers they can sell their produce openly, and do not have to pay taxes on their earnings.

Romania, already short of bread, has urged citizens to plant gardens wherever they can.

Unfavourable weather and other factors have often brought poor harvest for the Soviets and their allies. But officials this year seem conscious that Poland's unrest began with food shortages.

"Harvests have been moderate," says Wilhelm Kosek, an analyst at the U.S. embassy here. "But with Poland staring at everyone, they've caused greater worry this year."

The concern was demonstrated by the added attention given to agriculture in the region's state-controlled press in recent months.

In Romania, President Nicolae Ceausescu has been prominently shown in the press touring agricultural areas and warning of lax work habits on state and cooperative farms.

In September Mr. Ceausescu called for a change of attitude toward farming, which he indicated was being looked down upon in Romania. He said even high-level agricultural officials should be made to work on farms.

Czechoslovakia's official press, in what diplomats in Prague describes as unusually frank reports has complained in recent weeks of grain harvests falling far short of the 11-million-ton target and inefficient farming practices.

The Czech Communist party says it plans increases in prices paid to farmers for beef, milk and potatoes and will pressure local administrators to offer would-be private farmers small plots of unused land.

Speaking before a Czech central committee meeting in October, Committee Secretary Vasil Bilak said farmers should be made aware that shortage in food production could lead to a greater foreign debt.

"This is tellingly shown by the deterring example of Poland," he said, where foreign debt is "an important cause of the emergence of the counter-revolutionary situation."

Bulgarian news media have called for increased breeding of livestock to ensure adequate supplies next year, and the government imposed a 300 per cent surcharge on the export of foodstuffs.

All Soviet bloc nations rely on large state and cooperative farms for most of their food production, but results appeared to vary widely this year.

In Hungary, the only East European nation which does not import a large part of its food, fall grain harvests were slightly below last year's 13.5 million tons, according to official press reports. Up to 30 per cent of farm output is still slated for export.

East Germany's grain harvest was nine million tons — slightly below average — leading diplomatic observers in East Berlin to predict food imports next year will remain at current levels.

Although East Germany needs about 80 per cent of its own needs, it bought \$534 million worth of corn, wheat and cereals from the United States last year.

In Romania, a breadbasket for the Balkans before World War II, there are widespread food shortages and long lines at meat stores throughout the country.

The Romanian press said a 7.5-million-ton target was met for wheat and rye this year, but reports circulated in Bucharest say the government is planning to buy five million tons of corn from the United States to make up for its shortfall in domestic crop.

Study in politicisation

THE TERSE report from the United Nations describing the debate and voting on a resolution calling for U.N. aid to the Palestinian people strikes us as a timely case study in the psychology of international treatment of the Palestinian issue.

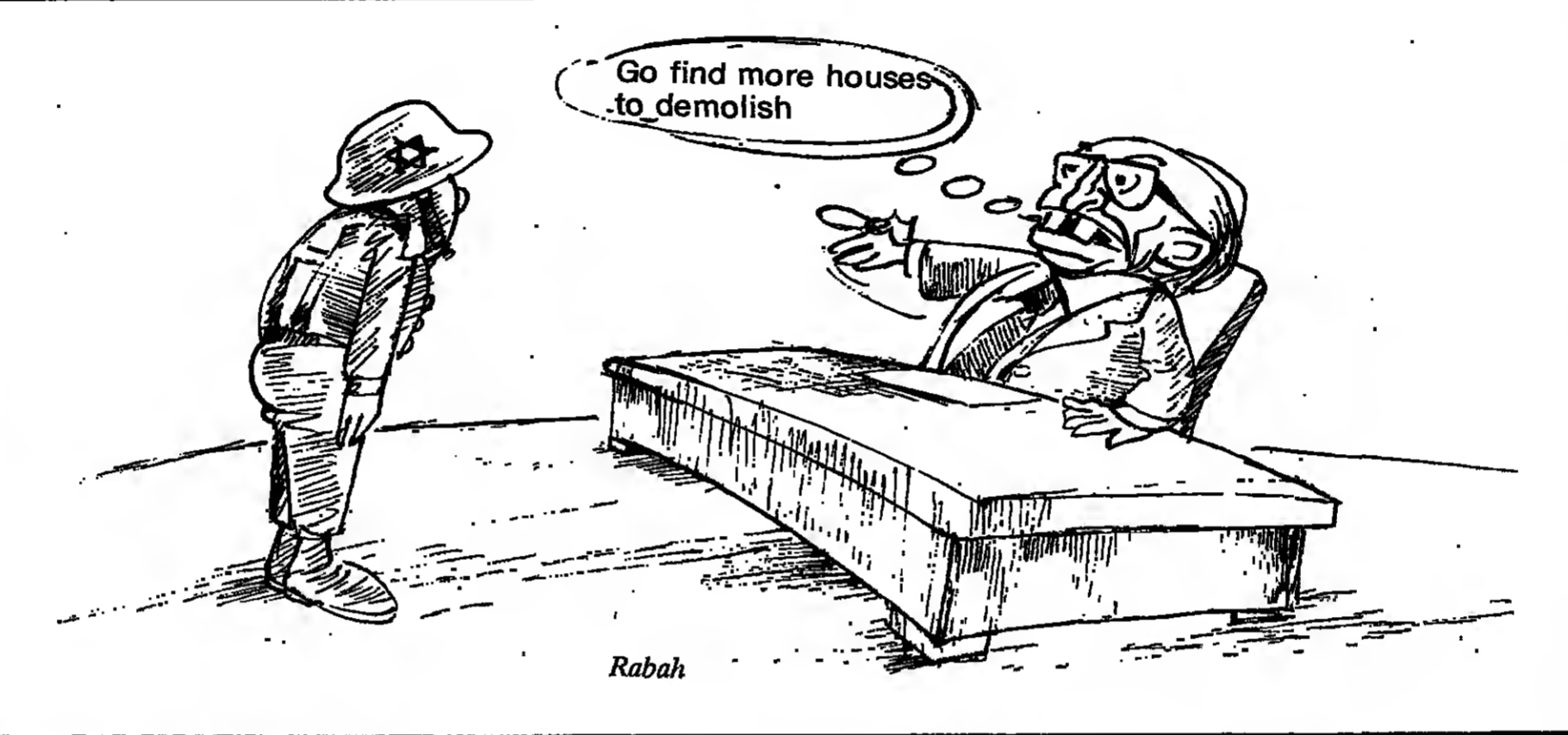
The resolution concerned is not, in any striking respect, very different from other declarations of world bodies calling for assistance to peoples in distress. But the United States could hardly bring itself to vote in the affirmative, considering Israel's opposition, and the U.S. delegate explained his country's negative vote by pointing to alleged "extraneous political elements."

Without difficulty, one can conclude that the "elements" in question are the words: "the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the representative of the Palestinian people." The United States, which refuses to recognise or talk to the PLO, and sometimes seems even to regret that the Palestinian people exist, could not go on record as favouring United Nations dealings with that organisation. But what are the diabolical political implications we are told the resolution contains? In what way are they "extraneous"? And who, after all, is responsible for the overheated political atmosphere that prevails in discussions such as these?

The PLO is recognised and accepted as the representative of the Palestinians by the great majority of countries, so there is nothing illogical or particularly provocative in their referring to it as such in a U.N. resolution. Possibly the inclusion was thought necessary because if the agency to be involved had not been specified then Israel would have found it easier to block the resolution's implementation -- as it is threatening to do anyway. But in any case, the American objection conjures up visions of a U.S. vote against earthquake relief to homeless people in Naples, just because a mention of the Italian government is an "extraneous political element."

Friday's vote might not even have been noteworthy to the press, were it not for the politicisation of what is really only an issue of humanity -- certainly not the fault of the Palestinians themselves. And it is that politicisation that is responsible for the hesitancy of countries like Britain, whose delegate found herself searching for loopholes to justify her country's abstention.

One can only regret that, in the absence of any noticeable motion towards full recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, thousands of human individuals may have no way of benefiting from the goodwill of an international body -- merely because any move to help them is seen as a political conspiracy.



What the Morocco summit has in store

BEIRUT — Arab leaders meeting in Morocco next week will be directly confronted with a question: whether to endorse the permanent existence of Israel.

For them it is the thorniest issue in an eight-point Middle East peace plan which Saudi Arabia intends to put before this year's Arab summit opening next Wednesday in the historic Moroccan city of Fez.

Formal adoption of the plan at the Fez gathering, which the official Saudi Radio last week described as "one of the most important summit conferences ever to be held by Arab leaders," could mark a turning-point in the 33-year-old Middle East crisis.

But, according to Arab sources here, critics of Riyadh's proposals will be attempting to ensure that no binding decision on them is taken.

Arab foreign ministers will begin debating the issues on Sunday, prior to the four-day summit.

Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Fahd launched the plan in August in the form of eight principles which, he said, were a synthesis of United Nations resolutions on the Middle East.

They call for Israeli withdrawal to pre-1967 frontiers, and the cre-

ation of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The seventh point supports the right of all states in the region to live in peace — a phrase which has been understood unanimously in the Arab World to include Israel.

After a slow start the plan has become the hottest talking point in the Middle East. The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council last week recommended it to the Fez summit, but most other Arab governments have been chary of committing themselves one way or the other so far.

Any concerted opposition to the plan is likely to come from the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, grouping Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Libya vigorously opposes the plan, but widely divergent views have come from within the PLO, whose leader Yasser Arafat has praised its positive aspects while some of the commando groups have loudly denounced the Saudi initiative.

While some rejectionists oppose ever recognising Israel, others argue that this moment is the wrong time.

PLO political chief Farouk Khaddoumi told the Beirut weekly Monday Morning there was no point in the Arabs offering peace plans while Israel had a military superiority over them. Israel, he noted, had dismissed the Fahd proposals out of hand.

Supporters of the plan, however, are likely to argue that since it has been well received in Western Europe, and even attracted cautious interest in the U.S., agreement by the Arabs to recognise Israel could persuade the Western World to bring pressure on the Zionist state.

Syrian and Palestinian sources said the aim of the plan's opponents was to avert a decision on it at the summit in such a way as not to anger Saudi Arabia, an important financial backer of both Syria and the PLO.

The Beirut daily As Safir said last week that two stalling proposals were being considered.

One was to urge Saudi Arabia not to submit the plan, to avoid a damaging split at the summit where only unanimous decisions are binding. The others was to bog down the plan in a sub-committee which would study all Middle East initiatives.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

The Eternal Truth

AL RA'I: The Arabs have repeatedly declared that the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty is the cornerstone in any just and comprehensive solution that can establish peace and security in the Middle East. The Arabs have presented irrefutable proof confirming the Arab right in the Holy City and, therefore, they have always been certain that their stand is very clear.

One finds it difficult to explain President Reagan's recent statement on Jerusalem in which he prefers to keep both parts of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty. One cannot also ascribe this to the lack of efforts to explain the Jerusalem issue and stress Arab sovereignty over the city. The U.S. president is fully aware of the Arab stand on Jerusalem and on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

Does President Reagan's statement mean that the United States retracts its stand on the United Nations Security Council resolution? Does this mean that the United States approves of force as a legitimate means to annex other people's lands contrary to all international laws, traditions and resolutions? Does this also mean that the United States does not want to see any efforts exerted to reach a just and comprehensive settlement, including the Saudi peace plan and the European initiative?

Arab Jerusalem is an occupied Arab territory that no-one has the power to grant to Israel. Arab Jerusalem is the crux of the issue. The issue can never be solved and peace and security can never be established while the City of Peace lies in chains.

This is the truth that the Arabs have always stressed. This is the truth that no statement by any source can change.

Rejection of Arab, Islamic demands

AL DUSTOUR: U.S. President Reagan's statement supporting the idea of a "united Jerusalem" under Israeli sovereignty is bound to push Arab-U.S. relations again to the dangerous edge they reached during the former U.S. administration which indulged in supporting Israel and failed to adopt a balanced policy on the Middle East issue.

Despite the White House attempt to stress that Reagan's statement does not mean a change in U.S. policy, it is clear that the flaw in this contradiction in U.S. policies is their determination to support Israel and deceive the Arabs. Arabs and Muslims do not consider Jerusalem just a place to pray in. Jerusalem is connected with the very core of the Islamic faith. The annexation of Jerusalem is part of the Zionist scheme to devour the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Menachem Begin has never denied this and has publicly declared it and is working to achieve it.

American offer of nuclear tradeoff in Europe: image issue for Reagan, nonsense for Brezhnev

By Barry Schweid

WASHINGTON — U.S. President Ronald Reagan is trying to ease European jitters and take the propaganda initiative away from Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev by proposing wholesale cutbacks in superpower nuclear arsenals.

The proposal may be too sweeping to succeed, at least immediately. Former president Jimmy Carter failed when his call for deep slashes in 1977 was rejected by the Soviet Union out of hand.

But whatever the outcome, Mr. Reagan is trying to establish his commitment to impose controls on the nuclear arms race. At the same time, he could be trying to brighten his image around the world and stiffen the backs of the allies.

As a presidential candidate, Mr. Reagan had to fight charges that he might be quick on the trigger. Recent talk about the spectre of limited nuclear war in Europe has revived the image problem.

The Reagan administration's first round of negotiations with the Soviets opens in two weeks and Mr. Brezhnev is about to make a high-profile visit to West Germany, a bedrock of the NATO alliance and the focal point of anti-nuclear sentiment.

Mr. Brezhnev has already rejected, in advance, any proposal that the Soviet Union should remove its SS-20s in return for a NATO decision not to deploy the Pershing II and Cruise missiles.

In an interview with the West German magazine "Der Spiegel" and referring to the theatre nuclear weapons negotiations slated to open in Geneva on Nov. 30, Mr. Brezhnev said:

"As the talks are drawing nearer, demands are being made ever more often by the U.S. side (and at a rather high level) for a special approach to the United States. Rather curious preliminary conditions are being formulated... (that) the scope of the talks should be limited to Soviet medium range missiles which should be dismantled in return for U.S. missiles to be deployed in Europe."

"Those in the United States who advance these kind of proposals apparently do not for a minute expect that the Soviet Union might agree to them."

"Most probably the authors of such proposals do not really want talks, let alone successful talks. What they really need is a breakthrough of the talks, which they can use as a sort of justification for continuing the planned arms race, for turning Western Europe, as planned, into a launching pad for new U.S. missiles trained on the U.S.S.R."

The NATO countries broke out with a severe case of nerves after Reagan told a group of editors last month that "I could see where there could be an escalation of tactical weapons against troops in the field without it bringing either one of the major powers into pushing the button."

Many Europeans were already upset by the NATO decision to deploy 572 U.S. Pershing II and Cruise missiles in Western Europe. In fact, to get the allies to agree to accept the weapons, the United States promised to first try to negotiate a way out with the Soviets.

Western Europeans were worried about the Soviet missiles trained on them and feared the deployment beginning in 1983 was like waving a red flag in front of the Russian bear.

The concern raised by Mr. Reagan's statement grew when Secretary of State Alexander Haig told a Senate committee this month that NATO had a contingency for firing a nuclear warning shot if the Soviets launched an invasion of Western Europe.

Mr. Brezhnev seized on Mr. Reagan's remarks to demand the president make clear that any notion of a nuclear ex-

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

ECONOMY

Kuwait reports monetary slowdown

KUWAIT, Nov. 21 (A.P.)—The central Bank of Kuwait today reported a slow-down in the country's monetary expansion which said was symptomatic of stagnation in economic activity and a drop in foreign currency holdings response to the relative stability in international interest rates.

The bank added that the growth in time deposits had a significant effect on monetary expansion, but that deposits in foreign currencies, dropped by \$105 million, which is 4.9 per cent compared to 14 per cent in the previous quarter.

Western states stand firm on inflation

PARIS, Nov. 21 (A.P.)—Senior economists of the Western industrialised nations see no reason to abandon restrictive anti-inflation measures, although some say of inflationary pressures is rising next year.

member countries see a deceleration of inflation next year thanks to steady oil prices, a decline in certain commodity prices and a deceleration in the growth of wages after inflation.

Model Modena feels the chill of harsh economic autumn

By Rupert Cornwell
MODENA: "If Modena goes under, then Italy will too," claims Mr. Mario del Monte, its Communist mayor.

ages. Modena is compact, as integrated as those medieval communes and blessed by a perfect balance between city and countryside.

Happily, it should be said at once, there are no conclusive signs that either Modena or the country at large will meet such a fate. But even in a city which has by Italian standards achieved an almost legendary prosperity, the chill of a harsh economic autumn is now being felt.

Other places," says Mr. Germano Bugarelli, former mayor and now responsible for economic planning in Emilia Romagna, "have industry as good or better than Modena's or agriculture as rich, but nowhere has the same combination."

Modena used to be the epitome of the Italy which didn't make daily headlines of terrorism, crisis and disorder. But now simple statistics have finally wrenched it out of that fortunate anonymity.

The lesson to be drawn from Modena is not to change a winning formula. The Communists hold political and economic power—largely through the co-operatives

Modena is standing proof that when Italy works it can work very well indeed. But even the Modenese economic miracle is not immune from Italy's harsh recession.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Arab-Turkish trade dealings top \$10b

ABU DHABI, Nov. 21 (R)—Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said today on arrival in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that his country's economic dealings with Arab states were now worth \$10 billion and expected to grow.

Algeria, Tunisia to inaugurate joint bank

ALGIERS, Nov. 21 (A.P.)—A new bank with joint Algerian-Tunisian capital, the Maghreb Arab Cooperation Bank (La Banque de Cooperation du Maghreb Arabe) will be inaugurated shortly in Tunisia, the official Algerian newspaper Al Moudjahid announced today.

Kuwait lends Indonesia, Pakistan \$76m

KUWAIT, Nov. 21 (A.P.)—The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development today extended two loans to Indonesia and Pakistan totalling \$76 million to help finance development projects in the two Asian countries.

Bahrain to invest \$280m in water desalination plants

BAHRAIN, Nov. 21 (R)—Bahrain plans to build two water desalination plants by 1986 at a cost of 110 million Bahraini dinars (\$230 million), Public Works Minister Majid Al Jishi said today.

ECC president meets Greek officials

ATHENS, Nov. 21 (A.P.)—European Economic Community Commission President Gaston Thorn, today called on Socialist Premier Andreas Papandreu and discussed issues related to the

AMMAN AIRPORT FOR SUNDAY

NOTE: The following airport arrivals and departures are provided to the Jordan Times by the Alia information department at Amman Airport. Tel. 92205-6. They should always be verified by phone before the arrival or departure of the flight.

Service Clubs

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Grand Palace Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Table with columns for currency type and rate. Includes Saudi riyal, Lebanese pound, Syrian pound, Iraqi dinar, Kuwaiti dinar, Egyptian pound, Qatari riyal, UAE dirham, Omani riyal, U.S. dollar, U.K. sterling, W. German mark, Swiss franc, Italian lire.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION and RADIO JORDAN schedules. Lists programs like Koran, Soccer Jordan vs. Soviet Union, Cartoons, Children's Programme, etc.

ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES, EMERGENCIES, DOCTORS, PHARMACIES, TAXIS, CULTURAL CENTRES, and MUSEUMS. Lists arrival times from various cities and service providers.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS and MARKET PRICES. Lists emergency services like fire, police, ambulance and market prices for various goods like tomatoes, eggplants, etc.

VOICE OF AMERICA and MARKET PRICES. Lists broadcast times for Voice of America and a detailed list of market prices for various agricultural products.

FEATURES

Japan's theatre will never die

Japan's all-too-successful manufactured exports are making the country increasingly unpopular with some of its less efficient trading partners. But the Land of the Rising Sun has not forgotten how to captivate and enchant the outside world.

By Dennis Kiley

When the leading lady takes ten minutes to make her entrance, as it in complete silence and veils up two ramps and right over the stage by moving nothing but her toes, we are witnessing something highly unusual theatre, even by London standards. The audience is either going to slip away or become mesmerised into acceptance. The opening night audience for visiting Tenkei Theatre from Kyoto settled slowly into a rapt sympathetic silence and were rewarded with "a beautiful and movingly performed Noh play," the Financial Times critic described it.

They were enjoying what could be called the attractive, acceptable of Japanese exports, and it is no accident.

Japan is becoming increasingly worried about the hostility which all-too-successful exports of manufactured goods is causing among some of its industrial partners. The extensive "Japan in Britain 1981-82" programme is a way of showing a major trading partner that Japan has more to offer than motor cars and mac-

chine tools, and is willing to share it with the West.

The visiting Tenkei Theatre's production of Komachi Fuden forms part of this cultural export, of which the main event is the "Great Japan Exhibition" at the Royal Academy of Arts. To judge by the reception the London critics have been giving it all week, it is the kind of export the West would like to see much more of.

As to the other kind, the reason for its unpopularity in Europe and America is plain enough. Japan's trade surplus with the European Economic Community will grow 25 per cent to \$15 billion this year, according to the EEC Commission. The Japanese surplus in trade with the U.S. will reach the same figure.

EEC External Affairs Commissioner Wilhelm Haferkamp warned Japan recently that lack of export restraint might lead to unilateral import controls on goods like motor cars, electronic equipment and machine tools.

The U.S., for its part, recently sent a delegation to Tokyo, led by Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, to discuss 15 specific manufactured exports which the Americans claim are being unfairly excluded from Japan.

To counter the effects of the 1979 oil price increases, Japan pushed up both industrial productivity (up 12.8 per cent in the first half of 1980) and energy efficiency, while at the same time restraining the possible inflationary effects of this by keeping real wages down so that they actually fell for most of 1980.

While this performance must be the envy of every Western finance minister, it clearly left Japanese consumers short of money to spend on imported Western goods.

It must be with a sense of considerable relief, therefore, that some of Japan's experts are now turning their energies to the problem of projecting Japan's history and culture to Western audiences.

It is not only the exquisite art of the Edo Period (1600 to 1868) at the Royal Academy which is on display. British television is carrying an eight-part documentary on contemporary Japan called "The Shogun Inheritance," in prime viewing time, the film "Shogun" is about to be screened and even British schoolchildren are being updated on matters Japanese as part of the programme.

The Tenkei Theatre, with its production of Komachi Fuden, demonstrates another way in which the Japanese blend their history into the present.

Nor can the Japanese authorities use either of the two classical methods of stimulating demand. They cannot start a big programme of deficit-financed public works spending, because their public sector deficit is already far too large. They cannot reduce interest rates, because their interest rates are already so low compared to those of other nations that they provoke protests from abroad that they undervalue the yen and function as a kind of disguised subsidy to Japanese exports, making them even more competitive.

The play centres on an old woman, Komako, reliving ghostly memories in her lonely room, her fantasies projected by the

other players. Not once does she speak, though what she is thinking forms part of the written play. "It may seem strange to write lines for stage silence," says author-director Ohta Shogo, "but our silence does not always mean that we are mentally silent."

In a society overloaded with verbal information the Tenkei Theatre's reputation for originality has much to do with its investigation of the significance of silence.

But there is fascinating stage action and the sound effects include Ravel, Edith Piaf singing and sentimental Japanese music. Komako's memories merge into fantasies connecting her with the modern world as neighbours quarrel or brush their teeth. Inquisitive officials who come to investigate her fade, slowly dancing away into dreamland again.

The action takes place on a Nob stage furnished at the start with nothing but tatami mats. The extraordinary and riveting entrance of Komako (played by Kazuyuki Sato) is followed by the company gradually bringing on the movable walls and furniture to the accompaniment of Vivaldi played at half-tempo.

The troupe's performances at London's Institute of Contemporary Arts are supported by the Japan Foundation and others.

Although the Tenkei Theatre is very popular in Tokyo it does not make money and its work is therefore only made possible by the self-sacrifice of its permanent members, of whom there are about 25.

Giving up the security which is the main goal in life for most Japanese, they work as bartenders, translators, manual labourers or anything else which gives them a living and leaves them free time for their theatre. The almost monastic dedication which this requires brings its own reward in the quality of their work — and is certainly no threat to the West.

— Financial Times News Features

Introducing a family car The Renault 9 next in line

By Michel Richard

Four metres long, four doors, room for five passengers, five to seven horse-power according to the particular model, a speed of more than 140 kilometres per hour and a tiny appetite — between five and six litres per 100 km at 90 km per hour: this is Renault's latest "baby", the R 9.

The arrival of this car on the market is a major event which no automobile constructor dares to look at without suspicion and wariness. For the R 9 is an important wager for the Renault state management, and the French national firm does all in its power to win its wagers.

Everything began with the "Renault 5". This remarkable little car, launched on the market ten years ago by Bernard Hanon, who is today president of the firm, still leads world production. Neither its age nor competition worry it:

people like it. By itself, it holds 16 per cent of the French market, or 300,000 vehicles: its exports are remarkably high and it is still being turned out at the rate of 3,000 cars per day.

But the day comes when the clients of the R 5 (like those of other small cars, including foreign, of the same type) feel a bit cramped inside. Their family has grown up, and this where things can go wrong, for such clients don't necessarily remain faithful to Renault. For the R 14, that rather plump car launched to succeed the R 5, has attracted only a moderate number of clients.

With the R 9, there's no longer a gap in the range. It takes its place deliberately in the middle of the range which, in Europe, represents more than 30 per cent of the market, or three million vehicles. It has to appeal to the greatest number of people possible and its classical shape answers this

objective. "Abroad even more than in France itself," explains Christian Marin, Renault's product manager, "newness and cleverness for its own sake is not recommended. The R 9 is a family car, conventional but profitable."

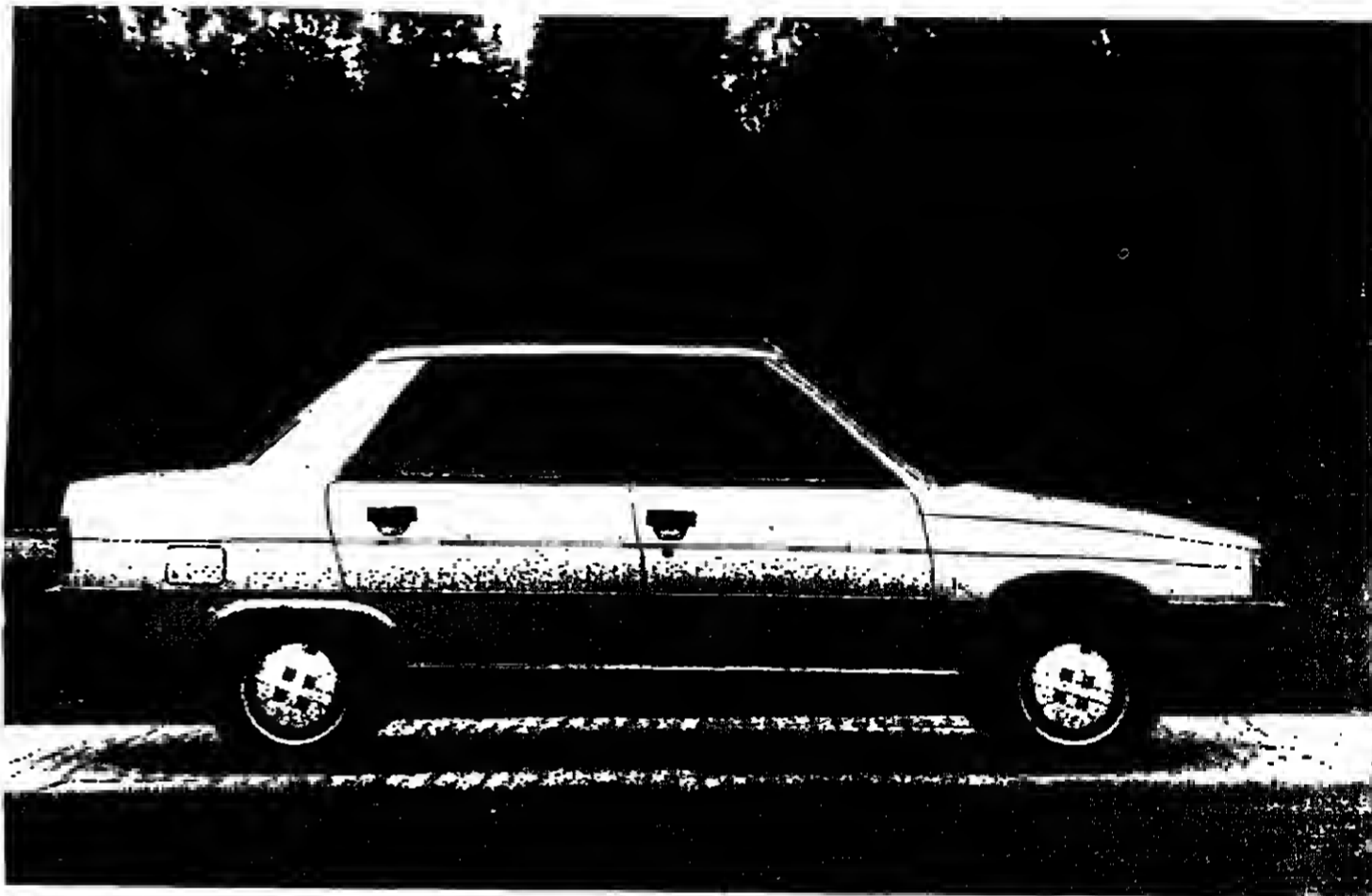
The Renault management therefore expects the R 9 to be an international success. From 1982 onwards, it will be built at Kenosha, in Wisconsin (U.S.), on the production lines of American Motors, in which Renault is a shareholder. Later, it will also be constructed elsewhere. Production agreements have been negotiated with Taiwan, Spain, Portugal, Mexico and South Africa.

To set up this giant industrial network, Renault has first of all reorganised its factory at Douai, which, crammed full of automated systems and robots, has become one of the most technically modern in the world. The painting and

welding operations are almost entirely automatic. The R 9 can be fully assembled in 20 hours, compared with 30 hours for any other Renault car. This is one excellent way of cutting production costs. Next, the computerised administration enables as many as eleven versions of the car to be produced, thus personalising it according to the different desires and tastes of French and foreign clients.

The R 9, which has cost one-and-a-half million hours of research and testing and FF two billion in research and design costs, is a vehicle destined to conquer a big market. Renault expects to produce 2,000 models per day. This should make it the second best-sold car in France, after the R 5 but before the R 18 (another Renault), which at present holds second place.

— Radio France International



The R9 has cost FF two billion as well as one-and-a-half million hours of research and testing. (RFI Photo)

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME. Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. SYTTA, TRINP, HERFIE, UNCOPE. Answer: SYTTA, TRINP, HERFIE, UNCOPE.

THE BETTER HALF. By Vinson. Leggo! I'm only cleaning the oven, I'm not reacting to the new TV season!

eanuts. Gentlemen, Regarding the recent rejection slip you sent me. I think there might have been a misunderstanding. What I really wanted was for you to publish my story, and send me fifty thousand dollars. Didn't you realize that?

utt 'n' Jeff. OH, BOY! WHAT A LUNCH! LAST NIGHT I DREAMED I WAS EATING SALAMI, LIVERWURST AND BALONEY! TWO DOLLARS ON SALAMI! TWO DOLLARS ON LIVERWURST AND TWO BUCKS ON BALONEY! ALL TO WIN! COME ON SALAMI! COME ON LIVERWURST! COME ON BALONEY! WHO WON? A HORSE NAMED COLDCUTS!

ddy Capp. AKIN' UP SNOOKER, ER CAPP— COULD POSSIBLY GIVE ME A GAME? NOT RIGHT NOW, SON— -BUT IN ANY CASE, I RECKON PERCY IS YOUR MAN— -YOU LEARN QUICKEST BY WATCHIN' OTHER PEOPLE'S MISTAKES GRRRR

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 1981. YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute. GENERAL TENDENCIES: It's necessary for you to employ considerable self-control today if you are to avoid arguments. Be on the alert to maintain poise if adverse conditions suddenly come up.

THE Daily Crossword by Arthur W. Palmer. ACROSS 1 Ukiah, 5 Killer whales, 10 Spitz the swimmer, 14 Code word for A, 15 Mid-west oil city, 16 — Minor, 17 Rest, 20 African fly, 21 Plane prefix, 22 "The — with the Hoe", 23 Decay, 24 TV adjunct, 26 Gold cloth, 28 Amo, —, 29 Major or kitchen, 32 Culbertson of bridge, 33 Mimics, 34 Territorial division, 36 Veer, 39 Toward the center, 40 Whittman, 41 Capek play, 42 Omar's output, 43 "For — the bell ...", 44 Snug; var., 45 Ethiopian people, 48 Sprits, 49 Buzzer, 51 Natives: suff., 52 Makes a new tree strain, 55 How a cross-cut saws, 58 Dagger, 59 Brilliance, 60 Phobia prefix, 61 Villa D'—, 62 Sounds of interruption, 63 Mulligan-tawney, e.g., 12 Hayworth or Moreno, 13 Actress: Madeline, 18 FDR follower, 19 Reagan, to friends, 24 Prayer word, 25 Me., N.H., etc., 26 On the up and up, 27 Unattended, 28 Footless, 30 Muscle health, 31 Ledger item, 33 Dark Cont., 34 Peacelike, 35 Pismire, 37 — Morgana, 38 New Mexico city, 43 Cad, 44 Bow and Barton, 45 Sioux, 46 — Tin-Tin, 47 Sailing, 48 Work unit, 49 Summoned, 50 Protection, 52 Obtains, 53 Wear out, 54 Shoe or plow, 56 Eisenhower, 57 Sandwich meat.

